The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The art to learn much is to undertake a little at a time.—Locke.

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FREEDOM TO OTHERS CAN'T BE DENIED WORKERS

A committee of the American Bar Association reports that "a relationship between unions and employers' associations based upon contracts voluntarily made is in the public interest."

Does this represent the belief of the nation's lawyers and judges?

If so, barristers and jurists can not uphold the company "union" and the "yellow dog" contract.

Both are based on coercion. Neither possess any element of voluntariness—freedom to exercise one's will is absent.

A contract must be free from coercion. Courts have invariably voided agreements where the element of duress exists.

The one exception is where workers are involved, the United States Supreme Court holding in the Hitchman case that the "yellow dog" can be protected by the injunction process.

The company "union" and the "yellow dog" are fundamentally vicious. In the former the employer maintains autocratic control over employes by a system of working behind the scenes.

In the latter an employe is refused work unless he signs an agreement not to join a trade union.

Here the employer takes advantage of the necessities of a worker and his family. The worker is compelled to waive a legal right to join a trade union. This waiver is not freely made. "If you don't sign, no work," is the employer's ultimatum.

Labor can defeat the company "union" and the "yellow dog," but it will take work to arouse public opinion.

These employers will not yield until they are compelled to. They will not voluntarily surrender autocratic control over the lives of workers.

The question is elemental. Collective bargaining is impossible under the company "union" and the "yellow dog."

One resolution will not suffice. There must be an incessant barrage of agitation and education for freedom of action to those citizens who happen to be wage workers.

"Yellow Dog" Is Doomed In Ohio; Labor Will Wage State-Wide Fight

Middletown, Ohio, Aug. 6.—An aggressive campaign against the "yellow dog" contract was agreed to by the annual convention of the Ohio Federation of Labor. Sentiment was unanimous that this vicious system must be outlawed in this State.

An anti-"yellow dog" bill was defeated by a trick in the last General Assembly.

The workers' case is strengthened immeasurably by State's Attorney General Turner's ruling that the State can annul these one-sided contracts that are based on the necessities of workers seeking employment, and who are forced to agree not to join a trade union while so employed.

"As I read it," said the attorney general, "the bill is designed to preserve in this State the right of collective bargaining. My opinion in this object is within the police power of the State and, therefore, is a proper subject of legislative action.

"While the right of contract is a part of the individual freedom protected by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, nothing is better settled by the repeated decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States than that the right of contract is not absolute and unyielding, but is subject to limits and restraints in the interests of public health, safety and welfare, and such limitation may be declared in the legislation of the State."

SOOTHING TERMS DRUG PUBLIC

A speaker at the Institute of Politics, an open forum in Williamstown, Mass., said that Latin-American Republics are becoming a zone of "regional understandings" for the United States, just as China and other Far East countries are considered "spheres of influence" by European powers.

"Regional understandings" is oily, bland and seductive. It is the latest soothing term to drug the public, but a six-inch shell to enforce these "understandings" has the same purpose and the same results in Latin-America as in the Far East.

The use of rose water and fair-spoken words is not confined to diplomacy and imperialism. They are effective in concealing opposition to trade unionism. The best known dope is: Employes' representation, company "union," American plan and the "open" shop.

All are based on the psychologic fact that many people can be lured by catch phrases.

The ability to reason is the most effective weapon against drugging the people.

FARM BLOC STAND IS SCARING EAST

Washington, Aug. 6.—Indications point to a renewal of the fight for farm relief when Congress convenes next December.

The agricultural group is determined to pass another McNary-Haugen bill similar to the one vetoed by the President. This alarms eastern Representatives and Senators, who fear an attack will be made on the tariff in retaliation.

The solidarity of the farm bloc and the revival of these law makers to yield to the wave of eastern abuse has about convinced the East that their tactics are wrong.

The claim is now made that "the East is beginning to understand the farmers' position." This is another way of saying: "We can't scare you, so let us compromise."

That agitation for farm relief will not subside is shown by publication of the administration's farm relief bill. This provides for an appropriation of $300,000,000 by the Federal Government. Of this fund $250,000,000 would be loaned by the Government to stabilization corporations to be created by the bill, $25,000,000 for the building of warehouses and creameries by the farm cooperatives and $25,000,000 for operating expenses.

Easterners are also hinting of a combine with the farm bloc to put through that measure as a trade subsidy. It is claimed that in the last Congress similar understandings were reached between some members of the farm bloc and easterners who favored the McFadden banking bill that gives a perpetual charter to Federal reserve banks. Both bills were passed, but the bank bill was signed and the farm bill was vetoed.

MUST PAY FOR SUNSHINE

London, England, Aug. 6.—During a hearing on rents by the Middleborough municipal committee, one official stated that many landlords in that town are charging extra rent for houses on the sunny side of the street. The extra rent is supposed to equalize the tenants' saving in coal bills.

OPPOSE INTERVENTION

Wausau, Wis., Aug. 6.—Opposition to armed intervention by the United States in other countries was expressed by the Wisconsin Federation of Labor at its annual convention here.

Human Nature Does Not Change When Politician Becomes Judge

Birmingham, England, Aug. 6.—"Trade unionists know too much about judge-made law to cherish the illusion that judges are no more impartial than the rest of us," says Herbert Tracey, writing in the Town Crier, labor weekly of this city.

To confuse trade unionists and deceive the public, lawyers insist that surely politicians who become judges experience instantaneously a miraculous change of heart and cease to be human.

Mr. Tracey points out how the anti-trade union bill, passed by the House of Commons and pending in the House of Lords, gives judges a wide latitude to express their individual dislikes.

"Much is left to the judges' discretion. The act does not provide, as it should, precise and unequivocal definitions of the offenses for which penalties are prescribed. A strike is to be deemed illegal if it has any object other than or in addition to the furtherance of a trade dispute with employers in the trade or industry in which the strikers are engaged and is a strike which is likely to coerce the government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community. It is left to the discretion of the judges, in every case, to say what strikes are in this category.

"What other objects than the furtherance of a trade dispute a strike may have, how it may coerce the government, in what way it may inflict hardship on the community—these are questions of fact, but they are left to the judges' discretion, before they are to be decided on an application for an injunction by the attorney general.

"A judge is able under the bill to make up his mind about them on the mere affidavits of the parties, without taking evidence or hearing witnesses; that is to say, it is a matter of the judge's own opinion, and in such a matter their opinion is no better than that of other people.

"What reason have the trade unions for believing that the judges will use their discretion impartially?"

VICTIM'S WIDOW PLEADS FOR SACCO

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 6.—Mrs. Alexander Boit, widow of one of the two men who were killed by robbers in South Braintree, Mass., has written Governor Fuller that Sacco and Vanzetti are not guilty of the crime. Mrs. Berardelli is living in this city.

"I am one of the two who suffered most from the Braintree murder," she said. "I lost my husband and the father of my two children, but I would be sorry to have two innocent men put to death. I have always doubted that Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty and I trust that you will free them and let them go home to their families."

Mrs. Frederick Parmenter, widow of the other victim, died two years ago.

POLICEMEN'S UNION LOSES IN MONTREAL

London, England, Aug. 6.—The privy council has refused to consider an appeal from a resolution passed by the Montreal, Quebec, city council, which is intended to dissolve the Policemen's Union in that city.

City officials were enjoined from enforcing the ordinance until an appeal was carried to the British high court in this city. The union's attorney called attention to the Canadian law which prohibits strikes or lockouts until the matter has been submitted to a board of arbitration. The claim was made that the city of Montreal violated this statute when it required policemen to resign from the union within eight days and that this amounted to a threat of a lockout within the meaning of the law.

The privy council, in dismissing the appeal, said that the city might not be entitled to institute a lockout but it was entitled to dismiss members of the police force. The attorney replied that if the union waited until all the members of the force who belonged to the union were dismissed he could not have obtained an injunction to prevent strike. The court, however, insisted that individual dismissals did not constitute a lockout within the meaning of the act.

HOD CARRIERS UNITE

Morgantown, W. Va., Aug. 6.—Hod carriers in this city organized with the assistance of John B. Easton, president of the West Virginia Federation of Labor.

ERIE ROAD UP TO OLD TRICKS; "CENSURED" FOR IGNORING LAW

Washington, Aug. 6.—The Erie railroad has been slapped on the wrist by the Interstate Commerce Commission for excessive payments for service to a New York harbor company whose chief stockholder was the son of the president of the railroad.

The law makes it illegal for a railroad to enter into contracts with other corporations in which officers or directors have a personal interest, unless such contracts are distinctly to the road's advantage.

The commission states that the railroad furnished coal to the harbor company's tugs free of cost. The road was charged $254,000 for repairs to two car floats which could be reproduced for $107,000. Towing charges paid by the road were so high that 70 per cent of the total represented profit to the favored company.

The excessive payments were made prior to 1924 and the commission says it can only censure the company for unethical standards in business. The statute of limitation debars criminal prosecution.

The Erie railroad was the originator of contracting its repair work to private shops, several years ago. This made it possible to get outside the jurisdiction of government officials and to reduce wages and other work conditions.

LAW BY REGULATION CAN NOT BE VETOED

Washington, Aug. 6.—"What has has become of that section of the Constitution which says that all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in Congress?" asks a correspondent writing to the Washington Post.

"Congress, so says the Constitution, shall consist of two houses. Once upon a time legislation was confined to the two branches of Congress, but how is it now? We have a dozen or so sub-Congresses, all enacting laws, and enacting them so fast that they cannot themselves remember them more than 48 hours. There is the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, the director of traffic, the Federal Power Commission and a score of other law-making industries. These are called 'regulation,' but they have all the binding force of law, and we be to that individual or corporation who forgets to obey them.

"What is more puzzling to me is that the Constitution gives the President a veto power over any and all laws passed by Congress, and yet no such power over the regulations made by these congressional annexes."

PROFITEERS LOSING IN INSURANCE FIELD

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 6.—Business men are beginning to investigate the value of Ohio's state-operated workmen's compensation insurance fund. Excessive costs of private companies are noted, as is the unity regarding the law between the Ohio Federation of Labor and the Manufacturers' Association of Ohio.

This legislation was fostered by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., when he was a member of the Ohio Senate. In a recent actuarial audit of the insurance fund by Miles M. Dawson & Son, consulting actuaries, New York City, it is stated that the rating system of the fund as compared with other states, "stands out brilliantly."

"The Ohio fund," it is stated, "goes further than any other workmen's compensation insurance fund that we know of in scientifically providing for future developments of its outstanding claims, both as to claims themselves and as to the amounts in connection therewith."

HIGHWAYS ARE NEEDED

Washington, Aug. 6.—Arkansas needs better highways, not more railroads, said the Interstate Commerce Commission in rejecting a railroad's application to construct 78 miles of track in that State.

PITTSBURGH PAPERS MERGE

Pittsburgh, Aug. 6.—Four of the five newspapers in this city have been merged into ownership and one afternoon papers. The papers involved are the Post and Gazette-Times morning, and the Sun and Chronicle-Telegraph, afternoon. The purchasers are William Randolph Hearst and Paul Block. This is the second Pittsburgh newspaper merger in recent years. The first was when the Pittsburgh Publishers' Association acquired the Dispatch and the Leader and discontinued both publications.

JAPS NOT WRONGED BY ALIEN BARRIER

Honolulu, Aug. 6.—Paul Scharrenberg, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, used plain language before the Institute of Pacific Relations when he answered statements by Japanese representatives that that country was "treated unfairly" by the United States when the present immigration law was passed.

The trade unionist threw aside diplomatic terms and defended his country in language that had but one meaning.

He said the entry of Orientals into the United States lowered wages and that the American attitude is not due to a feeling that Orientals are inferior, but on the contrary they are superior in such things as industry and thrift, as exemplified in their cheapness of living.

He called attention to United States laws which debar Orientals from becoming citizens. He said the problem of assimilation would always be great. He could see no advantage in talking of compromising on Oriental immigration, such as a quota ratio, similar to that for European peoples.

TORIES TRICK ENGLAND BY LIBELING WORKERS

London, England, Aug. 6.—The Conservative government has acknowledged that the notorious Zinovieff letter is a fake, and that the signature of Ramsey MacDonald, head of the Labor party, is a forgery.

The letter was made public in 1924, just prior to the general elections. Labor was in control of the British government and the letter connected Premier MacDonald with Soviet Russia. Zinovieff is the Communist leader.

He is one of three who are alleged to have written the letter. Detailed methods have explained how the revolution should be carried on. The letter created a sensation in England. Despite angry protests by labor that the signature was a forgery their party was swept out of office. The present government, headed by Premier Baldwin, was overwhelmingly elected.

The government now acknowledges the forgery by agreeing to remove MacDonald's name when the documents appear in the next issue of the official "Blue Book."

CONVENTION CALL ISSUED BY LABOR

Washington, Aug. 6.—Officers of the American Federation of Labor have issued the call for the forty-seventh annual convention at Los Angeles, which convenes October 3.

The Chicago Federation of Labor has arranged a special train from Chicago to Los Angeles. The train is routed over the Chicago & North Western and the Union Pacific systems and will leave the former's passenger station at Chicago Sunday, September 25, at 2:30 p. m., central time. The round trip summer excursion rate, Chicago to Los Angeles-San Francisco and return, is $90.30.

The convention call reminds trade unionists that labor should be given a full representation at the annual convention.

The cause of organized labor will be advanced and promoted in proportion to the active service the officers and members render in the interest they take in its work and its administration," it is stated.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

East St. Louis, Ill., Aug. 6.—The annual convention of the Illinois Federation of Labor will meet here on Monday, September 12.

Labor Rejects Old Wage Theory; Demands Share Of More Output

Washington, Aug. 6.—Organized labor no longer strives for higher real wages; "it strives for higher social wages, for wages which increase as measured by prices and productivity," said William Green, editor of American Federationist, in a leading article in the current issue.

Mr. Green rejects the theory that sufficient wages shall be paid to permit workers to retain present standards. He insists that wages increase with productivity.

"This modern wage policy lifts the movement to a new level," said Mr. Green, "for higher real wages mean only betterment of the economic position, while higher social wages mean betterment of the economic and social position of the worker. The modern wage policy guarantees an active but stable development of industrial society.

"In the earliest period organized labor struggled for higher money wages. Instead of $10 per week, it tried to secure $11 per week and the next year perhaps $12.

"A second period in the wage policy began as organized labor realized that the amount of money is no adequate measure for deciding whether a wage is high or low, and that it is necessary to relate money wages to prices. Then organized labor struggled for higher real wages —that is, wages that would buy more.

"Very obvious changes in prices induced organized labor to realize the necessity for calculating in real wages.

"Very obvious changes in productivity of labor today induce organized labor again to widen its wage policy.

"Higher money wages, from an economic point of view, do not improve the situation of the worker, if prices increase more than money wages.

"Higher real wages, from a social point of view, do not improve the situation of the worker if productivity increases more than real wages.

"For higher productivity, without corresponding increase of real wages, means that the additional product has to be bought by others than the wage earner. This means that the social position of the wage earner in relation to other consumers becomes worse, because his standard of living will not advance proportionately with those of other groups.

"Deteriorating social position, that is, declining purchasing power of the mass of the wage earners in relation to the national product, brings about industrial stability which will develop into industrial crisis.

"The American Federation of Labor is the first organization of labor in the world to realize the importance of the factor productivity in economic society. It no longer strives merely for higher money wages; it no longer strives merely for real higher wages; it strives for higher social wages, for wages which increase as measured by prices and productivity."

PICTURE STARS' PAY WILL NOT BE REDUCED

Los Angeles, Aug. 6.

MOTION picture producers postponed their 10 per tent wage cut on salaries over $50 a week. Carl Laemmle, president of company "union" agrees that its members shall be less tempermental. They pledge their fullest cooperation with the producers. This week bears the high-sounding title "Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences."

It is hinted that the militant attitude of other actors, who are joining the Actors' Equity Association, affiliated to the A. F. of L., was a factor in inducing the producers to reverse their wage-cut position.

PETER COOK IS DEAD

Roselle, N. J., Aug. 6.—Peter G. Cook, vice president of the Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada, died here. He has been in ill health for some time.

The funeral and burial was here, and was attended by officials and members of this and other trade union officials, including the A. F. of L.

Peter Cook was one of the best known and most popular men in the trade union movement. His sunny disposition and sweet tenor voice that would render Scotch folk songs assured him a welcome in every group of workers.

NAVAL PARLEY HAS FAILED; LEADING NATIONS DISAGREE

Washington, Aug. 6.—Fundamental differences between the United States and Great Britain have brought negative results at the Geneva naval conference called by President Coolidge.

At the Washington naval conference, called by President Harding, it was agreed that battleship tonnage for the two countries and Japan should be at the ratio of 5-5-3. President Coolidge suggested that the ratio be applied to cruisers, destroyers and submarines. France and Italy refused to agree to any control over submarines and were not officially represented at the conference.

The main reason for the conference failure was a demand by the United States that a limit be placed on small cruisers. These vessels are around 6,000 tons and are used in war times to destroy commerce. Great Britain objected on the ground that her many trade routes throughout the world lie in narrow waters and are bordered by other nations. These trade routes, Great Britain insists, must be protected, as her commercial life and her food depend upon imports.

The United States answered that unlimited small cruisers, together with Britain's many speedy merchant liners that can quickly be turned into commerce destroyers, will create an unlimited navy and will permit Britain to stop neutrals from trading with any nation she is fighting. While this policy is against international law, history shows that when a nation has its back to the wall, it is not particular about methods.

It is also pointed out that Britain's numerous naval bases throughout the world make wide cruising radius for her battleships unnecessary. As the United States does not have these naval bases, long cruises to secure provisions are necessary in times of war. This means larger ships and greater expense, which Britain can forego.

The Washington conference placed a limit of 10,000 tons on battleships. Britain wants a limit on tonnage less than that and no limit on the small cruisers. The United States takes the opposite position.

This is one of the major differences between the two nations. It is deep-seated and could not be adjusted by experts who represented the two countries.

Despite propaganda on the "progress" made by the conference, neither nation yielded its main point. Around this revolves every effort to limit naval construction. Apart from usual bombast, the two countries know which the blame is placed on the other, and which is intended for home consumption. Each country is sensitive to public feeling. There is some talk of the United States entering a naval construction race with Great Britain but Congress must approve this expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The sentiment against this policy is not small. Another factor is the growing belief that the battleship will eventually be supplanted by the submarine and the airship as an effective sea defense.

BARBERS' STRIKE ENDS

New York, Aug. 6.—A seven-week strike of 2,000 barbers for union recognition has been won.

MOVEMENT TO "LEFT" GROWING IN WORLD

Williamsport, Mass., Aug. 6.—"Are we slipping into an age of despots, benevolent and otherwise?" asked Dr. Henry R. Spencer of Ohio State University at the Institute of Politics here.

Revolutions and political conditions throughout the world, Dr. Spencer said that in most cases dictatorship is grimly accepted by these peoples. He blamed public worship of national unity as a fetish.

"Hence order is secured by rigorous repression of dissenting thought, the mailmen becomes an horrent, the clash of classes, castes and churches is avoided by artificial conformity and society is strictly regimented," he said.

Dr. Spencer's remedy for present tendencies was rule by persuasion, instead of rule by force and the "acquiescence of the politically supine."

TETLOW LOSES ARM; AUTO WAS WRECKED

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 6.—The left arm of Percy Tetlow, president of District No. 17, United Mine Workers, was amputated just below the shoulder at Mountain State Hospital, where he was removed following an automobile accident near Madison, Boone County. The accident was caused by defective steering gear. His arm was broken in three places and his hand mashed. He and several associates were on their way to address a mass meeting of miners at the time.

President Tetlow was formerly statistician for the United Mine Workers. He has been in charge of District No. 17 since the present organizing campaign was started.

LINE MEN RAISE WAGES

Hamilton, Canada, Aug. 6.—Electrical workers employed by the Hamilton Hydro-Electric Commission have raised wages 2 cents an hour and secured two extra holidays a year with pay.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN

New Bedford, Mass., Aug. 6.—Moving picture operators in this city advanced wages $1 a week in two large theatres as the expected other managers will do likewise.

MORTGAGED FARMS GAIN IN OKLAHOMA

Wichita, Kan., Aug. 6.—There were no mortgaged farms in Oklahoma in 1920, but 80 per cent of the farms were under mortgage in 1925.

This statement was made by C. H. Hyde of Alva, Oklahoma, who represented farm organizations of that state at a grain rate hearing held by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Hyde produced records from the federal census which show in 1920-25 Oklahoma lost more than 17,000 farm home owners and gained 17,000 tenants. During the same period farm lands in that state decreased values 30 per cent, or more than $313,000,000.

Mr. Hyde claimed that fundamentally the farmer paid his expenses not with money, but with grain; that it will take more bushels of wheat to buy his implements than it would in 1914; that the same was true as to his taxes, interest, clothing, and groceries, and that it now takes a larger part of a car of wheat to pay the freight than it would then.

An exhibit of Oklahoma state banks showed that from January 1, 1919, to March 7, 1927, 183 Oklahoma state banks failed. The total loss was more than $47,000,000. Answering the railroads' claim that their taxes are high, Mr. Hyde showed that in 10 years the railroads built 600 miles of track in Oklahoma and that their assessment had been reduced $14,000,000. During the same period the number of acres in farms did not increase, but the assessment of farms was increased more than $17,000,000.

SHOES MADE IN PRISON CAN'T BE STAMPED "U. S."

Washington, Aug. 6.—The Federal Trade Commission has ordered the Commonwealth Manufacturing Company of Chicago to desist from using the letters "U. S." on its shoes.

The commission said that shoes so marked and put out by the company were not made to Government specifications, the use of the letters "U. S." indicated, but were manufactured in the Indiana State Prison and "were greatly inferior" to Government army shoes "in quality and workmanship."

ART GLASS WORKERS GAIN

Chicago, Aug. 6.—A wage rate of $1.05 an hour and a ten-year contract has been secured by the Art Glass Workers' Union.

PLANS OF ANTI-UNIONISTS COLLAPSE MANY COAL OWNERS ARE BANKRUPT

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 6.—The number of bankrupt anti-union mining companies is increasing in this State, and the mining villages are marked with deserted villages.

This is a shock to business men who were enchanted by the picture of State-wide prosperity that the coal owners painted. West Virginia was to supply the world's markets, if the coal industry could "free itself from the domination of the United Mine Workers."

Business men, the press and injunction judges reflected this manufactured public opinion and the coal owners secured control in many sections of the State. Instead of prosperity the reverse is true. Low wages reduced the workers' purchasing power, and the class of labor employed, together with unbridled competition, has wrecked the industry.

Hazy, in Raleigh county, an anti-union stronghold, is the latest mining village to pass from the scene. The Hazy Eagle Colleries Company has closed and a bankruptcy petition has been filed in the Federal court. The Pax Colleries Company, in the same county, is also bankrupt. This champion of law and order is accused of transferring its property to three favored stockholders, while the other stockholders "hold the bag."

During the last fortnight several other anti-union coal corporations have been placed in the hands of receivers.

"Charleston business men who joined the attack on the Miners' Union and organized labor in general," says the West Virginia Federationist, "are beginning to realize that they have also wrecked business. They are reaping the result of an insane drive for cheap labor and industrial autocracy.

"The reaction has set in and the business and professional elements are deserting the coal owners."